

PAPERS READ.

ON CERTAIN GECKOS IN THE QUEENSLAND
MUSEUM.

BY C. W. DE VIS, M.A.

The head-quarters of *Nephrurus asper*, Günth., seems to be that part of Central Queensland, east of the Dividing Range, which lies on the northern slope of the east and west anticlinal. It has been received by the British Museum from the Peak Downs. The colonial collection has been supplied with examples from Bogan-tungun and Natal Downs. Whether its range extends to the great southern watershed is not as yet in evidence. It may be that its limit in this direction is defined by the presence of a second species of the genus represented by the example which is submitted for comparison under the name of

NEPHRURUS LEVIS,

distinguishable at a glance from *N. asper* by its comparatively smooth lepidosis and expanded tail.

Description.—Head very large, broader than the neck and body, subtriangular, convex. Snout as long as the diameter of the orbit and shorter than the post-orbital length of the head. Eye large, prominent. Nostril small, horizontally elliptical. Loreal and frontal regions rather concave. Ear orifice a vertical slit half as long as the diameter of the orbit. Body moderately long, slender. Limbs rather short and slender. Basal two-thirds of the tail expanded and flat on the upper surface, the breadth of the expanded portion two-thirds of the length of the same, suddenly contracting on its right side to a tapering peduncle bearing a small symmetrical

pyriform knob. *Lepidosis*:—On the occiput, interorbital space and sides of the frontal regions are small round close-set tubercles mingled with others still smaller. The mid-frontal loreal, temporal and supraciliary tubercles are much smaller but on the last two regions are accompanied by a few of larger size. The internasal tubercles are intermediate in size, rough and, under the lens, obscurely keeled. Upper surface of the body and limbs minutely granular studded with small rosettes composed of a conical tubercle within a circle of very much smaller and numerous tubercles; the rosettes are for the most part irregularly disposed but on the flanks they tend to arrange themselves in oblique lines; they also form a regular curved line across the back and a less definite angular band across the shoulders. The lower surface is covered with small tubercles which enlarge a little on the chest and towards the lower lips. Rostral and mental subequal, small and low. Labials $\frac{20}{20}$. Above light brownish-grey, a pale band across the occiput, a second across the nape, a third very angular over the shoulders, the former two enclosing a crescent, the latter two a triangle, of the ground colour; a pale T-shaped mark on the rump; many of the larger tubercles, notably those of the curved line crossing the back, white; under surface white. Entire length 94 mm.; length of the head 21; its breadth 18.5; length of the body 52; of the tail 21; of the fore-limb 22 and of the hind-limb 29 mm.

The digits of the manus are all on the same plane as indeed they are in *N. asper*. The opposition of the outer digit to the inner, given as a generic character, is limited to the pes.

DIPLODACTYLUS TÆNICAUDA.

A *Diplodactylus* with uniform dorsal lepidosis associated with preanal pores in the male.

Description:—Head short, shelving from the forehead to the muzzle. Snout rounded, longer than the postorbital length of the head. Ear orifice a short narrow slit. Body stout. Limbs short and strong. Digits short, broad, depressed; inferiorly with large transverse pads of which the antepenultimate is broadly cordiform

and incised on its distal edge; the fourth digit has five entire plates preceded by pairs of smaller ones at the base; the terminal plates large and together cordiform. Granules of the upper surface moderate in size, round; in each interspace a minute granule. Granules of the lower surface rather large; of the flanks much smaller. Rostral pentagonal with or without a short median cleft above, its lateral angle produced to the nostril which is between the rostral, the larger upper and the five smaller posterior nasals, and the labials. Labials $\frac{12}{13}$. Mental trapezoid to triangular, larger than the foremost infralabials. No chin shields. The length of the tail, which is tapering in form, equals that of the body together with half that of the head; it is covered with square or oblong scales in regular rows but frequently every fourth row is interrupted above by a group of a few small scales. The preanal pores are in two separate curved lines each of 4-5 pores. Grey with small irregularly-shaped black spots as large as or rather larger than the yellowish interspaces. A broad chocolate band commences between the ilia and runs along the upper surface of the tail to its tip which it surrounds; the band is irregularly edged with black and white specks. Tail beneath rufous. Under surface of body dirty grey with numerous black specks. Entire length 129 mm; length of the head 17.5; its breadth 15.5; length of the body 57.5; length of the fore limb 22.5 and that of the hind limb 26 mm.

Locality, Chinchilla. Numerous examples.

The contrasting colouring of this fine Gecko distinguishes it at once from its congeners.